tillers of the soil. A misfortune has befallen these poor people. The great majority of them lived on the land they tilled and for uncounted generations were cared for by the landlords. With the partition of property, following upon recent social legislation, estates came to be split up and to a great extent the holdings became so small that apparently in many cases the proprietor found himself unable to house and maintain the Pulaya field labourer. The result is that numbers of them have been left homeless and have to fend for themselves. The needs of these poor but indispensable people have to be met. This does not mean that other communities of the landless classes are being shut out. 15,892 acres have been set apart for distribution and 511 acres were allotted during the year. The result is not satisfactory. At this rate it will take thirty years to apportion out the earmarked area. The remedy is not simple. A protector who is not an officer of the Land Revenue Department is necessarily handicapped since all the processes of land registration are at present under law and rule vested in the Land Revenue Department and no officer not actually exercising the functions of a land revenue officer can effectively deal with the matter. The land revenue officials already have their time fully occupied. The Government propose to introduce more effective arrangements from the beginning of the approaching financial year. The appointment of a whole-time protector of the depressed classes, as the phrase goes, will not, careful investigation has convinced me, by itself solve the difficulty.

6. Lands for Ex-service Men. The striking disparity between 4,320 acres reserved for ex-service men and the lands actually granted to them, only 19 acres, led me to direct an investigation of the causes which defeated the fulfilment of the Government's intentions in this matter. A misapprehension was mainly responsible for the failure. The land revenue officers were under the impression that *varavila* or the full purchase price of the land applied for had to be paid by the men and that the concession extended only to preferential treatment and the reservation of areas. The rules were not clear. The misapprehension has since been removed. It has been made clear that the lands are to be allotted cost free and the time for registration has been extended to the 21st November 1928. Every effort is now being made to accelerate registry but delays are sometimes found to be unavoidable because of mistakes in applications : lands outside the reserved area, lands without sufficient indication of location and lands already in the possession of others are sometimes applied for.

7. Salt. It is the hope and the aim of the Government to see the whole of the salt required for consumption in the State manufactured in the State. In 1101 we had to import 310,234 maunds of salt from Bombay and 586,504 maunds of salt from Tuticorin, our own production having been only 407,466 maunds. Things were better in 1102. Our fourteen licensed factories manufactured 668,991 maunds. This is the largest output on record and is the result of better brine and more suitable weather conditions. The imports of Bombay salt dropped to 230,539 maunds and of Tuticorin salt to 322,594 maunds. We hope to do still better this year. The Chief Engineer and the Excise Commissioner are in consultation with the factory owners seeking means to stimulate the industry.

8. Abkari. You will find the policy of the Government in the matter of arrack and toddy consumption in the State outlined in the Administration Report and the measures taken during 1102 in pursuance of that policy are there stated. A further step forward in the cause of temperance has since been decided upon. The auction sale of shops and the licensing of trees for tapping for the next biennial contracts have to be taken in hand in a few months' time. In sanctioning arrangements the Government have decided that the duty on jaggery arrack be raised from Bh. Rs. 4-8 to Bh. Rs. 4-12 and on toddy arrack from Bh. Rs. 8-9-6 to Bh. Rs. 8-12-0 per proof gallon ; that the number of liquor shops be reduced from 1,835 to 1,754. But perhaps what the general public will look upon as more important is the interesting experiment of local option to be made at Changanacherry.

9. Season and Trade. A slight deficiency in the north-east monsoon and the too early setting in of the south-west monsoon affected the paddy crops to some small extent. But, on the whole, the season was beneficial,

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